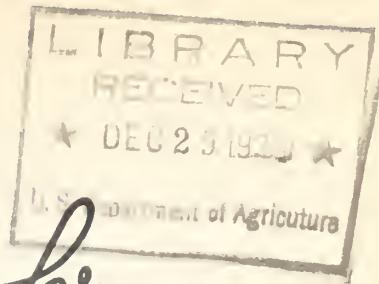


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# 5 Minutes of AAA NEWS BRIEFS

# Facts for NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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## 1939 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FARM PROGRAM

The AAA Farm Program has three main objectives, and it is as necessary for farmers to work together for these objectives in times of war as it is in times of peace. These objectives are: Soil conservation, a fair income for farmers, and stability of supplies.

As 1939 draws to a close, we see the Farm Program in its first full year of operation. In 1938, you remember, the Act was passed months after the winter wheat crop had been seeded. But this past year every single mechanism of the Program -- allotments, loans, quotas, insurance, export programs, and all the rest -- swung into its intended place in the line of battle.

The Farm Program in full operation has been an outstanding success in 1939. The benefits that farmers have received from it have demonstrated that this is the greatest farm program ever offered farmers anywhere.

This past year nearly six million farmers have used the AAA as a means of cooperatively conserving the Nation's soil and improving their income. As a result, soil-conserving practices have been carried out on an estimated 80 percent of the farm land and 70 percent of the privately owned range land. Wheat farmers, by planting within their 1939 allotments, have made a long stride toward bringing their supplies into line with demand: the corn farmer has established an Ever-Normal Granary to help him and the rest of the Nation withstand the shocks of widely fluctuating crop yields; and cotton farmers have not only brought their production into line with the demand for American cotton, but are making headway on reducing the supplies which had accumulated before the 1938 Act came into being.

-- R. M. Evans, Administrator, AAA, at Northeast Regional Conference, New York.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AT NEW YORK CONFERENCE

Meetings of committees and reports of these committees to the general session accounted for more than half of the program of the Northeast Regional Conference held in New York, December 6-8, 1939. State and county programs on education, and specific suggestions for adapting the farm program even more closely to conditions in the Northeast were outstanding recommendations of these reports. Complete copies of the reports, which are being forwarded to all county committeemen, are summarized as follows:

**Livestock** - (R. Y. DeWolfe, N. Y., Chairman) -- The group agreed that no immediate problem of over-expansion of the dairy industry existed as a result of shifting acreages to soil-conserving crops and carrying out soil-building practices. However, it was recommended that a study be made of possible means of controlling dairy production in order that measures may be available if they are needed at some later time. The report endorsed the Ever-Normal Granary program as an assistance to the dairy industry in maintaining dairy prices.

**Fruit** - (C. G. Wooster, N. Y., Chairman) -- The group recommended the continuance of present soil-building practices, purchases by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, and enlargement of the Stamp Plan. They also recommended the addition of a practice to cover the removal of uneconomical orchards.

**Potatoes** - (F. W. Hussey, Me., Chairman) -- The potato group conference expressed belief that the potato program in the past two years had largely attained its major objective in stabilizing acreage. A strong recommendation was made to all committeemen that an active campaign be conducted among potato growers to urge them to stay within their acreage allotment for 1940. It was also recommended that there be no increase in the 1940 allotments. It was stated that if these two recommendations are followed it would represent the most constructive effort which the potato industry could make to prevent an unwarranted acreage expansion in 1940, and thus maintain the gains made during the last two years.

**Vegetables** - (H. F. Tompson, Mass., Chairman) -- The vegetable growers gave a large part of their attention to the 1941 vegetable program. They recommended that no payments be made on vegetable acreage allotments, but that the usual acreage of vegetables be established for each farm and that a deduction be made for any acreage in excess of the usual. Further, that all payments in connection with vegetables be earned by soil-building practices, but that one or more new practices be developed which, if carried out, would have the effect of transferring acreage from vegetables to soil-building crops.

**Wheat** - (G. G. Minnich, Pa., Chairman) -- Continuance of the present wheat program was recommended as being a means of stabilizing farm income and promoting the conservation of soil resources. A few detailed suggestions for making the program more adaptable to the conditions in the Northeast were also included in this report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AT NEW YORK CONFERENCE - Cont.

**Tobacco** - (A. C. Bardwell, Mass., Chairman) -- The tobacco group recommended: (1) Several changes in the marketing quota provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 which would insure the efficient and equitable operation of these provisions if they were put in force; (2) that Federal all-risk crop insurance be extended to cigar-leaf tobacco as soon as possible; and (3) that committees give adequate recognition to legitimate trends in production on individual farms in establishing farm acreage allotments.

**Information** - (J. E. Walker, Pa., Chairman) -- The group agreed that definitely planned educational programs are the responsibility of State and county committeemen. Programs planned in individual States or counties will vary, depending on the subjects of particular interest in those areas.

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LOW GRAIN PRICES MEAN COMPETITION FOR DAIRYMEN

"On my farm in Iowa we have dual-purpose cows which are usually allowed to nurse their calves. We figure that is the way to get high-class beef started. However, when grain prices went all to pieces back in 1932 we put in stanchions all the way down the barn and we milked those cows and sold the cream. We didn't get as good beef, but beef wasn't worth much anyway. The important thing was that the cream checks provided enough extra money to keep the farm going.

"My boys hate to milk, but they found that they could do it when they had to. We stopped milking cows when grain prices picked up and we certainly hope it will never again be necessary for us to compete with regular dairymen." -- *From remarks of Jess Alton of Iowa, at N. E. Regional Conference, New York.*

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VERMONT LEADS IN SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR PAYMENT

The AAA office had received 69.8 percent of the 1939 applications for payment expected from Vermont by December 12, 1939. On that date, similar figures from other States were as follows: Maine, 38 percent; Massachusetts, 33.7 percent; Pennsylvania, 32.9 percent; New Jersey, 32.2 percent; Rhode Island, 29.6 percent; Connecticut, 26.3 percent; New York, 20.2 percent; and New Hampshire, 19.9 percent.

As announced at the New York conference, Caledonia County, Vermont, was the first county in the Region to complete the transmittal of all its 1939 applications for payment to the State office.

## 1940 GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility of informing the public, including both farmers and consumers, about the farm problem and what we are attempting to do about it rests squarely with the State, county, and community committeemen. They can and should enlist the cooperation of every available agency in order to get the job done, but they have the responsibility of getting it done.

I therefore propose the following goals for 1940 -- goals which must be reached if the objectives of the national farm program are to be reached:

(1) That State committeemen personally see to it that every county committeeman in the State is thoroughly informed (a) regarding his duties and responsibilities, (b) with respect to the farm problem, and (c) about the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program.

(2) That every county committeeman personally see to it that every community committeeman in the county is informed with respect to (a) his duties and responsibilities, (b) the national farm problem, and (c) the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program.

(3) That every community committeeman personally see to it that every farmer in his community is informed with respect to (a) the national farm problem, (b) the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program, and (c) how he can use the national farm program on his farm to accomplish the most for society.

(4) That State, county and community committeemen divide among themselves the responsibility of informing interested leaders in the community, county, and State, regarding the national farm problem and the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program. By "leaders," I mean vocational high school and extension leaders and officers of farm organizations, service clubs, and Chambers of Commerce.

(5) That every county committee hold at least one supper meeting during the year, where, if possible, the wives of the county and community committeemen in the county will prepare the meal; each county and community committeeman invites one businessman and possibly his wife; and the county committee put on the program themselves personally. The program should be designed to inform the businessmen with respect to the national farm problem and the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program.

(6) That State, county, and community committeemen definitely plan to have one of their number discuss the national farm problem and the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program before interested groups in the State. By "interested group," I mean farm organizations, service clubs, businessmen meetings, trade associations, etc.

(7) That consideration be given in each State to having a capable farm woman available at meetings of interested groups of women in the State, for the purpose of presenting the national farm problem and the objectives and accomplishments of the national farm program. -- *C. D. Lewis, Assistant Northeast Regional Director, at NE Regional Conference, New York*